Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Helping everyone find a pathway to their fullest potential

The Beginning

- Started in 2012.
- Gov. Snyder's mission to meet Michiganders' unique needs to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Person-centered services.
- Gov. Snyder asked MDHHS to reduce truancy in 4 highest crime cities in Michigan: Detroit, Flint, Pontiac and Saginaw.
- Launched in 21 schools.
- Targets five outcome areas: attendance, education, health, safety and self-sufficiency.



Pathways Workers

- A MDHHS worker (success coach) placed at a school where high number of families already receiving assistance.
- Work with principals, social workers, attendance agents and teachers.
- Monitor attendance.
- Address barriers.
- Greater, easier access to clients.
- Mobile, goes where the client is (including home visits).
- Work one-on-one with families to identify and remove barriers and connect them to network of
- Goal: to have clients become more self sufficient.
- Work with students, families and community.



Team Approach

- Quick identification of issues preventing attendance.
- Barriers include:
- Lack of school uniform.
- Lack of alarm clock.
- Caregiver suffering from severe mental health issues.
- Homelessness.
- Provide resources so students show up ready and able to learn each day.



Community Schools

- Success coach works with Community School Coordinator.
- Resources for entire school, not just MDHHS clients.
- Community becomes actively involved in school.
- Ensures resources for students to succeed.
- Identification of trends in barriers.
- Mobilization of the community to fill gaps in resources.
- Currently 24 Pathways schools with Community School Model in place.



Yearly Expansion

- End of 2012-2013 school year:
- 124 schools in 4 cities.
- Reduced truancy by 9%.
- End of 2013-2014 school year:
- 170 schools across the state.
- Reduced chronic absenteeism by 34%.

- End of 2014-2015 school year:
- 219 schools across the state.
- Reduced chronic absenteeism by 37%.
- Currently in 250 schools in 32 counties:
- Including 2 in Western Upper Peninsula.
- 15 Focus schools.
- 72 Priority schools.



Current Partnerships and Initiatives

- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS): accepts referrals of students in high school and
- Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI): programs and customized training sessions with MDHHS and Michigan Works! for Certified Nursing Assistant program.
- Future expansion to include welding program.
- MRS/Department of Natural Resources Youth Summer Employment: MDHHS provided an 8 week summer work experience for Pathways/transition youth at a DNR site.
- Commission/AmeriCorps for youth summer employment and intensive mentoring pilot in Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies and Michigan Community Service Detroit, Pontiac, Flint and Saginaw with 9 community partners.



Current Partnerships and Initiatives

- workers stationed in the schools Currently delivering statewide Barrier Removal and Restorative Justice training to all
- Race to the Top through Michigan Department of Education is providing resources for barriers related to childcare as well as children ages birth – 5 years old
- focusing on basic needs being met initially. Transitions To Success: developing an assessment to assist clients with their particular needs,
- School Justice Partnership and the School to Prison Pipeline
- Providing Strengthening Families trainings to all success coaches.



Where We Are

32 Counties 250 Schools 15 Focus schools 72 Priority schools

Greater Detroit Area



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More Information:

www.michigan.gov/PathwaysToPotential **#PathwaysToPotential**

